

L.T. - P&G Monday, January 14, 1952.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY: The Pacific Coast is having the worst blizzards and rainstorms in fifty years, and tonight every line of communication across the Sierra is blocked -- highway, rail and air. Northern California completely isolated from Nevada.

In San Francisco, a tremendous deluge of rain, lashed by winds as high as seventy-nine miles an hour - sheets of water driven almost horizontally. In the valley of California, communities flooded - widespread havoc from wind and rain. In the Sierra, that meant - blizzard, huge snowfalls whipped by the violent storm, mountains choked by enormous drifts. Three years ago, in the Sierras, it took me four hours to go nine miles, to Truckee for this broadcast. Well, today there in that same Donner Pass, a pitched battle of men against the frosty elements was on again

as highway crews, and railroad men of the S.P. under Veteran Division Superintendent Merle Jennings tried to keep the pass open; - thru that chief line of communication out of Northern California. Automobiles and trucks by the score snowbound. It was a losing battle. The highway crews couldn't make headway against the raging blizzard. Donner Pass - closed tight by snowdrifts. That the story all along the line of the mountains -- where, for the first time in modern history, all travel across the Sierra is cut off simultaneously.

But its only half of the story. The weather Bureau reports another tempest, equally violent, coming down from the Gulf of Alaska. New deluge for northern California, new blizzards for the Sierra.

ADD WEATHER

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, bad weather has altered Prime Minister Churchill's plans for a flight to Washington. Instead, the British Premier will go by train late tomorrow afternoon -- reaching the capital in time for his address to congress.

PLANE

The air crash at New York today was a freakish sort of accident - a crowded liner plunging into the river off LaGuardia Field. It could have been a grim tragedy, but all thirty-six aboard were saved. So, it merely stands as a singular ~~xxx~~ episode of commercial aviation.

The plane, from Boston, was coming in for a landing and the weather was vile - rain and heavy fog. It was an instrument landing, with the aid of radar, and the airliner was heading straight toward the correct runway. Coming ~~ix~~ in over water, the pilot thought he was landing on the field. But, actually he was several hundred yards out - over shallow water, a mud bank. Water ~~xxxx~~ ~~is~~ can be deceiving in a heavy fog. The passengers were tossed around, and water rushed in. But they all got out, some standing in the shallow water up to their waists. Others - perched on the wings of the plane.

There were boats nearby - and, in a few minutes everybody was being taken ashore. The plane

meanwhile, sinking - until only the wing tip and part of the tail were above the surface.

Plenty of excitement, but no dark tragedy - when the pilot mistook the river for the flying field.

Meanwhile, in London, the ship's crew at the Danish Club to receive his Ensignment, presented by the Danish Ambassador from Copenhagen, Count Reventlow. Great crowds turned out to greet the man who stayed with his ship. The ship and retiring sea captain from New Jersey backed away from the popping flashlight bulbs and the lights of the newspaper cameras. His only comment was that old-old one that "press conferences were a waste of time --- than the ordeal in the Atlantic."

Tomorrow Helmerick Kurt Carlson boards the flying clipper for New York, Broadway and the Times-Sunday show. He's not insisting that he's not entitled to any publicity for New York. "I feel I have not accomplished anything." That he would say: "Of course it could have been a different story if I had been at the flying enterprise late now. As it is,

FLYING ENTERPRISE

In Washington today the Isbrandtsen Lines asked the Federal Maritime Board for the loan of a Victory Ship: for Captain Carlsen, to replace his "Flying Enterprise."

Meanwhile, in London, the skipper was at the Danish Club to receive his Knighthood, presented by the Dane Ambassador from Copenhagen, Count Reventlow, Great Crowds turned out to greet the man who stayed with his ship. The shy and retiring sea captain from New Jersey backed away from the popping flashlight bulbs and the lights of the newsreel cameras. His only comment was that old-old one that "press conferences were a worse fate ----than the ordeal in the Atlantic."

Tomorrow Heinrich Kurt Carlsen boards the Flying Clipper for New York, Broadway and the Ticket-tape shower. He keeps insisting that he's not entitled to any parade in New York. "I feel I have not accomplished anything." Then he added sadly: "Of course it would have been a different story if I had brought the Flying Enterprise into port. As it is,

I just tried to do my duty."

But as we all know he made his lone stand against everything Nature could throw at him. And he fought back to the finish. That's why men everywhere are doffing their hats to the captain of The Flying Enterprise.

...we've been hearing all along. The Vatican thought the naming of a General might create an unfavorable impression - in the light of Conciliar propaganda, denouncing the Americans as imperialists and war-mongers. It is emphasized that the Vatican would welcome an American representative, and the spokesman is quoted as saying: "We are, therefore, grateful to Mr. Truman's determination to make another nomination at a later date."

One might gather from this that, in many such circles, they're not displeased by the act

VATICAN

(Here's comment from the Vatican - on the withdrawal of General Mark Clark from the nomination as Ambassador to the Holy See. The Vatican is not surprised - declares a news dispatch from Rome. Nor is there much disappointment or disapproval.)

General Clark we are told, is held in the highest esteem in Roman Catholic Church circles, but the belief was that a military man was not a wise choice as Ambassador - a civilian would be better.

~~This is in line with what~~ we've been hearing all along. ~~The Vatican thought the naming of a General might create an unfavorable impression - in the light of Communist propaganda, denouncing the Americans as imperialists and war-mongers. It is emphasized that the Vatican would welcome an American representative, and the spokesman is quoted as saying: "We are, therefore, grateful to Mr. Truman's determination to make another nomination at a later date."~~

One might gather from this that, in ~~xxxx~~ Papal circles, they are not displeased by the new

development - which puts off the whole stormy question of an Ambassador to the Vatican. (Today, Protestant Church leaders repeated their opposition, and declared ~~it~~ against any future appointment the President might make.)

Meanwhile in the Canal Zone, there was another accident as a British road block by Egyptian forces. There in the fighting, eight Egyptians were reported slain - also two Britons.

EGYPT

Egypt was the scene of mass demonstrations again today. In Cairo, and the large delta town of Zagazig, throngs of students marched through the streets with the bodies of two students who were killed in skirmishes with the British.

Meanwhile, in the Canal Zone, there was another violent assault on a British road-block by guerrilla forces. There in the fighting, eight Egyptians were reported slain -also two Britishers.

PARIS

In Paris today from the Big Three came a joint proposal that the new atomic control suggestions made by the Soviets be turned over to the U N disarmament commission. At the same time the French delegate, warned that "premature conclusions" should not be drawn from the new Soviet program. As he put it: "agreement in language" does not necessarily mean "agreement in substance" - especially when dealing with Mr. Vishinsky and his colleagues.

MOTHER

Tonight we find the army at war with -- motherhood. Which certainly sounds unchivalrous of the Army; - motherhood being sacred, as we all know. Nevertheless, the military authorities have dismissed a lady soldier, a major - because she had a baby.

She is the wife of Colonel Loren Thompson, and is on the Army list as a Major of the Military Police. ~~But~~ there's a special regulation disqualifying women with children under eighteen. So the lady Major was fired - after six years of active duty.

She's protesting, and three Senators have taken up her case. She points out that military duty is for the defense of our homes, and ^{she} presents her argument in a fine sentimental way.

"Surely," she protests, "a woman should also be permitted to defend her home - which has ~~been~~ become all the dearer because a child has come into it."

Which, I think, should make even the hard boiled Army heave a sigh.

At Concord, New Hampshire, two top level political strategists arrived today. The capital of New Hampshire is a quiet, ~~restful~~ place, in accordance with its harmonious name - of Concord. But right now, its the scene of the first big battle of the presidential campaign.

The political strategists are John █████ Hamilton, one-time chairman of the Republican National Committee - who is, at present, a political adviser to Senator Taft. The other John Hollister, former law partner of the Ohio Senator.

In the New Hampshire primary, a full slate of delegates has been entered for General Eisenhower - without much competition, thus far. Several delegates have gone in for General MacArthur, although the former Supreme Commander has announced that he is not in the presidential race at all.

So what about Senator Taft - the real conflict being between Taft and Eisenhower? The Ohio Senator has not been entered in the New Hampshire

Primary - and that New England State might go to General Ike by default, no contest.

That prospect has stirred up Taft supporters in New Hampshire, one of whom stated today: "There definitely will be a fight in New Hampshire to stop the railroading of an Eisenhower nomination."

But all ^{who have just arrived} that will be decided by the two top level strategists, ~~now~~ on the scene. Today, John ~~Drum~~ Hamilton declared ^{that} they ~~are going to~~ ^{would} look things over and then decide whether to enter delegates for Taft while there still is time.

I suppose they don't want to enter Taft, if they think it looks like a victory for Eisenhower. But on the other hand, they don't want to let New Hampshire go by default - the state that's first in holding a ~~xxxx~~ presidential primary. So you see the dilemma.

SNIPER

Los Angeles has a report on the "phantom sniper" which makes the ghostly marksman more mysterious than ever. A complete paradox, in fact.

During the past few months, Los Angeles has had a series of shootings, the victims women - in their homes. One - killed. Others - wounded more or less seriously. The theory - a murderous maniac, prowling with a gun. The most recent victim was Mrs. Audrey Murdock, shot as she was ironing in the kitchen of her home. - She's still in the hospital.

In the police investigation, five of the bullets were recovered, and these have been studied. Today, George Lacey, Chief of the criminal laboratory, discloses that all the bullets were of twenty-two calibre - same as the ordinary target rifle.

But the strange thing is this - each of the bullets was fired from a different gun. So the Phantom sniper must have used a ~~x~~ different weapon each time, or maybe there was a whole string of ghosts with guns - multiplying the terror.

But the chief of the criminal laboratory points out that all the shots were fired from the direction of the Los Angeles River ⁴ bed, -- which is an area where boys are known to have target practice with **Twenty Two's**. So the phantom sniper may be nothing more than the old story - of boys reckless with target rifles.

MONTROSE

One of the most famous of relics is on its way across the Atlantic by air mail -- the heart of Montrose. On its way to a Canadian woman, Mrs. Thomas Hurley of Vancouver - who gets the heart of that legended Marquess of Montrose, ^{who was} executed for treason three hundred years ago.

All Scots know the name of the Lord of the Highlands, who supported Cromwell - then changed his allegiance, and tried to rally the Highland Clans for the Royal Stuarts. He was captured and hanged. His niece, Lady Napier, had his heart made into a memento -- an heirloom down the centuries.

The heart of Montrose had strange adventures - was lost in India during ^{the} early days of the British in Hindustan. ^{- the days of Clive and Warren Hastings,} But, it was recovered, and lost again in France, during the French revolution. Missing for more than a century, then found in Wales in Nineteen Thirty-One - when it came into the possession of ~~the~~ Captain Henry Stuart Wheatley-Crowe, custodian of the Royal Stuart Society.

He set out to find the rightful heir, a quest that took twenty years. Finally ending on the West Coast of Canada. So now the heart of Montrose has been airmailed to Mrs. Thomas Hurley of Vancouver.